

Table 13.3: Percent Prevalence of Self-Reported Parkinson's Disease and Parkinsonian Symptoms^{1,2}

Condition and Treatment	Total (N=1002)	Age Group			Disability Level		
		65-74 (N=388)	75-84 (N=311)	85+ (N=303)	Moderate ³ (N=343)	ADL Difficulty	
						Receives No Help (N=478)	Receives Help (N=181)
Has a doctor ever told you that you had Parkinson's disease? ⁴ Yes	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	1.1	1.6	7.0
Are you currently being treated for Parkinson's disease? Yes	1.9	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.1	1.3	5.4
Current use of L-dopa or Sinemet ⁵	1.6	1.8	1.0	2.8	0.6	1.3	4.6
Any of the above ⁶	2.4	2.3	2.4	3.2	1.1	1.8	7.0
Parkinsonism Questionnaire ⁷							
Do you have trouble rising from a chair? Yes	50.8	50.1	48.9	57.7	23.5	61.8	76.8
Is your handwriting smaller than it once was? Yes	22.6	19.3	24.7	26.6	19.1	21.1	33.7
Do people tell you that your voice is softer than it once was? Yes	9.3	8.5	10.2	9.0	9.1	8.9	10.7
Is your balance poor? Yes	56.4	52.0	59.9	60.0	45.7	58.7	72.2
Do your feet suddenly seem to freeze in doorways? Yes	10.2	8.6	11.8	10.7	5.9	10.5	18.4
Do people tell you that your face seems less expressive than it once did? Yes	8.1	8.8	8.4	5.4	6.9	7.1	13.6
Do your arms or legs shake? Yes	16.0	13.2	19.2	15.8	13.2	12.8	30.8
Do you shuffle your feet or take tiny steps when you walk? Yes	23.3	19.8	23.2	34.1	14.9	23.5	40.5
Have you ever taken L-dopa or Sinemet? Yes	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.8	0.3	2.2	8.8

(Women's Health and Aging Study, screening and baseline interviews, 1992-1995)

¹ All variables have less than 2% missing data. Results are based on non-missing data.

² Descriptive statistics are based on weighted data.

³ No ADL difficulty; disabled in two or more domains (see Chapter 1).

⁴ The question was asked in the screener interview and the presence of the condition was confirmed in the baseline interview.

⁵ Interviewers asked participants: "May I see the medicine bottles, containers or bags for all of the medicines that you have taken or used in the last two weeks? Please include medicine prescribed by a doctor and medicine not prescribed by a doctor." Evidence of current use of L-dopa or Sinemet is based on the interviewer's notation of at least one of these among the drugs shown.

⁶ "Yes" to the question about having Parkinson's disease, or evidence of current use of L-dopa or Sinemet.

⁷ Tanner CM, et al. (1990). A brief screening questionnaire for parkinsonism. *Ann Neurol* 28:264-268.